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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9138
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0557
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 0220
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 001007

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DEPT FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/RA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/14/2017

TAGS: KPAL KPAO ETTC PREL PTER AE

SUBJECT: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE REGARDING CONTINUED ARABSAT
BROADCAST OF AL-ZAWRAA AND AL-MANAR

REF: A. SECSTATE 84112

¶B. ABU DHABI 209

¶C. ABU DHABI 8

Classified By: Ambassador Michele J. Sison for reasons 1.4 (b & d).

¶1. (C) On June 18, Econchief expressed the USG's serious concern about the continued operation of Iraqi insurgent television "Al Zawraa" on ArabSat to MFA Acting U/S Tariq Al-Haidan. Econchief stressed the need for immediate action to remove it from the air in Iraq. Econchief also underscored USG concern about continued broadcast of Hizballah-controlled Al-Manar TV on ArabSat. Al-Haidan expressed his agreement that Al-Zawraa needed to be taken off the air, adding that he had recommended to UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdulla bin Zayed Al-Nahyan that the UAE pursue this goal. On Al-Manar he commented that the station "was different, but working in the same field."

¶2. (C) Note: Although Al-Haidan did not discuss ArabSat's ownership structure in this conversation, he has previously noted that reaching consensus on removing Al-Zawraa would be challenging since the UAE has only a 4.66 percent interest in ArabSat. End Note.

SISON